

REMARKS

The following objections/rejections were noted in the May 20, 2003 Office Action. Claims 12, 16, 17 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,095,661 to Lebens et al. ("Lebens"). Claims 1-5 and 7-11 were allowed. Claims 13-15 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-17, and 20-23 remain pending in the application.

The Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action mailed May 20, 2003. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections by the Examiner and allowance of the application.

The Applicant has currently amended claim 12 to include all of the limitations of claim 13, which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 12, and claims 14-17 and 20-23 that depend therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing comments, Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-17, and 20-23 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request early notification of such allowance. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to attempt to resolve any such issues.

If any fee is due in conjunction with the filing of this response, Applicants authorize deduction of that fee from Deposit Account 06-0308.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

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Scott A. McCollister, Reg.No. 33,961
1100 Superior Avenue, Seventh Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
216.861.5582